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**The Need for Government**

**Imagine what a school would be like without rules. Students would not have to attend class, complete assignments, obey teachers, or treat classmates with respect. Also, teachers would not have to assign grades fairly or treat students with respect. Obviously, without rules, schools could not function.**

**Just as rules are necessary for schools to function, laws are necessary for society to function. Life in a society without laws would be unsafe and unpredictable. Even though many people would probably cooperate and treat one another with respect, others would steal whatever they wanted and do as they pleased without fear of punishment. There would be no police department to provide safety and no judicial system to protect people’s rights.**

**Governments exist to maintain law and order. They also provide services that people need. Governments build and maintain roads, military hospitals, and schools. They construct libraries, parks, and playgrounds and provide police and fire protection. All of these functions, and many others, make government an important part of society.**

**1. Why are governments necessary?**

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**2. What types of services do governments provide?**

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**3. Do you think governments provide enough services? Explain.**

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**4. Think about your community. Name several services your government provides.**

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**5. Do you think it is possible for a government to provide too many services or have too**

**much influence in society? Explain.**

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**Student Interview: Why do we need government?**

**Directions: You will need to interview an adult relative, friend, or teacher in order to hear their opinion about the purpose of government. Ask each question below, and then record their response.**

**Name of person being interviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How do you know this person? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1. Why do governments exist?**

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**2. How does government affect the lives of citizens on a daily bases?**

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**3. What are a few ways that the Federal government helps to protect its citizens?**

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**4. What are a few ways that the government of Virginia Beach helps to protect its citizens?**

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**5. Are there any services provided by the government that benefit you?**

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**6. Come up with one question of your own to ask. Write your question and then their answer below.**

**My Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Their Answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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